

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 200958Z FEB 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5182

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0297

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD M.) CH US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO PRC OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON:

INVITATIONS FROM CHINESE

1. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICE TOOK INITIATIVE MORNING FEB 20 TO INVITE USLO TO BE AT AIRPORT FOR FORMER PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL FEB 21 AT 8:20 PM. WE HAVE INFORMED MFA THAT ACTING CHIEF AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS (PROBABLY ECON CHIEF THOMAS AND WIFE) WILL GREET MR. NIXON.

2. EARLY AFTERNOON FEB 20 PROTOCOL OFFICE TELEPHONED US TO INVITE "TEN PLUS" SENIOR USLO DIPLOMATS AND WIVES TO ATTEND WELCOME BANQUET SUNDAY NIGHT AND CULTURAL EVENT MONDAY NIGHT. CHINESE HAVE THUS NOW TAKEN INITIATIVE TO WHICH PEKING 250, PARA 3B ADDRESSED BUT ABOUT WHICH STATE 39739 LEFT DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE UNCLEAR.

3. WE MUST REPLY TO CHINESE BY MORNING FEB 21 PEKING TIME. UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, WE WILL INFORM MFA THEN THAT ACTING CHIEF AND THREE USLO COUNSELORS AND WIVES (A TOTAL OF SEVEN) ACCEPT INVITATION TO BOTH BANQUET AND CULTURAL EVENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS NUMBER IS ADEQUATE TO AVOID COMPLICATING RELATIONS HERE WITH CHINESE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY 1000 AM FEBRUARY 21 PEKING TIME ON USLO PARTICIPATION IN BANQUET AND CULTURAL EVENT. THAYER

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